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DOVER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954

C.F. LYNCH, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

With the Compliments

of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Health Department,
Brook House

10 NOV 55

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor J. Collard (Chairman)

Councillors

Miss S.D. Crocker	Mrs M.F. Hogg
Mrs E.A. Manley	W.H. Archbold
W.H. Fish, J.P.	W.E. Gascoine
W.E. Hollis	K.J. Madge, J.P.
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H.E. Russell, J.P.	A.C. Simcox
R.M. Voce	A.U. Whitworth, M.P.S.
P.E. Wootton	C.D. Young, O.B.E.

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Clerk to the Authority:

W. Wilmott

Medical Officer of Health:

C.F. Lynch, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W.O. Armstrong, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

E.W.G. Rathmell, M.S.I.A.

Clerical Assistant:

Miss D. Baldwin.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

BROOK HOUSE,

DOVER.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Dover Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Dover Rural District for the year 1954.

The vital statistics for the year show that, although there was a fall in the birth rate and a rise in the death rate compared with the figures for 1953, these rates still compare favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole. There was an increase locally in the number of deaths from malignant disease and from diseases of the heart.

There was a reduction in the total number of infectious diseases notified and the incidence generally showed no unusual features.

A few cases of undulant fever (Brucellosis) occurred during the year in the area of a neighbouring authority and seemed to point to a designated raw milk supply in the Rural District as the source of infection. Investigation showed that the milk in question was in fact liable to recurrent infection with Brucella Abortus and considerable difficulty was experienced in approving clearance for the dairy herds concerned.

Although no cases came to light within tho Rural District nevertheless, unidentified cases of a minor character may well have occurred since the disease varies greatly in its symptoms and severity.

In view of the continued prevalence of this infection among dairy cattle and the many obstacles, legal and otherwise, to its satisfactory control, the only safe public health measure in the present state of our knowledge would seem to be the routine Pasteurization of all milk supplies.

Housing and general sanitation continued to receive careful attention, all possible steps being taken to maintain reasonable standards wherever conditions that fell short of optimum standards were found.

I am indebted to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and to the Senior Sanitary Inspector for the data supplied for inclusion in this report.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

C.F. LYNCH,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1955.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The district is bounded roughly as follows:- On the North by the Rural Districts of Bridge-Blean and Eastry and the Borough of Deal; on the East by the sea; on the South by the Borough of Dover, the sea and the Borough of Folkestone, and on the West by the Rural Districts of Elham and Bridge-Blean.

The following Civil Parishes are situated within the boundary:-

Alkham, Capel le Ferne, Coldred, Denton, Guston Hougham, East Langdon, West Langdon, Lydden, Ringwould, River, Shepherdswell, St. Margaret's, Temple Ewell, Whitfield, Wootton.

Area (including inland water), 25,797 acres.

Population: (a) Estimated mid-year Home population 11,770

(b) Preliminary 1951 Census figures 10,493

(NOTE: All rates are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population of 11,770).

Number of Inhabited Houses, 3,347

Rateable Value, £90,269.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, £359 7s. 1d.

Density of Population - Persons per acre, 0.46.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

1. BIRTHS:

(a) Registered Live Births:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	77	83	160
Illegitimate	2	3	5
	79	86	165

Comparability Factor = 1.17

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	14.02
Crude Legitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	13.59
Crude Illegitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	0.43
Adjusted Live Birth Rate for comparative purposes	16.40

(b) Stillbirths:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths) 23.67

2. DEATHS:

	Male	Female	Total
Registered	65	73	138

Comparability Factor = 0.81

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.72
Adjusted for comparative purposes	9.49

NOTE:- Comparability Factors are factors derived by the Registrar General from the final 1951 Census populations in order to make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distributions of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. After multiplying the crude birth and death rates for the area by this comparability factor, the rates so adjusted are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for other areas.

3. INFANT MORTALITY: Deaths under 1 year:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	1	1

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 6.06

4. SPECIALLY RECORDED DEATHS:

Cancer (all ages)	28
Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

5. CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1954:

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	7	17
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	12	21
Coronary disease, angina	11	6	17
Hypertension with heart disease	1	4	5
Other heart disease	9	16	25
Other circulatory disease	4	2	6
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	-	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	10	15
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	-	1	1
	65	73	138

6. COMPARATIVE RATES:

	Dover Rural District 1953 (per 1,000 Home Population)	Dover Rural District 1954 (per 1,000 Home Population)	England and Wales 1954
BIRTHS:			
Live Births Crude:	17.10	14.02	15.2
Live Births Adjusted:	20.00	16.40	-
Still Births:	-	0.34	0.36
DEATHS;			
Crude:	9.24	11.72	11.3
Adjusted:	7.48	9.49	-
DEATHS: (per 1,000 Live Births)			
All causes under 1 year of age	10.7	6.06	25.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY: (per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births)			
All Causes	-	-	0.69

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Clinical material for examination may be submitted to the local Hospitals' Laboratory Service as well as to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone, where all routine examinations of samples of milk, water, etc., are carried out.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals situated within the Rural District and three hospitals in the Borough of Dover, which are administered by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, provide appropriate facilities for general medical, surgical, maternity and infectious cases.

Nursing in the Home

The Kent County Council, as the administrative Authority responsible, provides this service in the Rural Area.

Clinics and Welfare Centres

The County Council as Local Health and Education Authority provides various specialist and consultant services for expectant and nursing mothers, infants, toddlers and children of school age.

The Regional Hospital Board also provides local clinic services including facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and of venereal disease.

S E C T I O N C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

Some 96 - 97% of the houses in the Rural District are supplied from the public mains. Of the sixteen parishes in the district fourteen are supplied by the Mid Kent Water Company and two by the Folkestone Waterworks Company. Work to supply two small areas at Alkham and Capel le Ferne with a main water supply was commenced, and at the end of the year was completed in respect of Capel le Ferne, while extension of the main was in progress at Alkham.

Four reports on samples taken from the public water supply showed that the water was quite satisfactory.

Eight samples of water were taken from rain water tanks. In six samples there was evidence of recent contamination, and of these, four were from properties on the line of the new main water supply at Alkham.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There is one main sewerage system in operation in the area, serving part of Temple Ewell, otherwise sewage is disposed of by means of cesspools, septic tanks, pail closets and chemical closets.

Number of houses on main drainage	93
Number of houses on cesspools and septic tanks	2,515
Number of pail and chemical closets	739

The Council have submitted full details of the scheme to extend the sewer to the rest of the village of Temple Ewell to the Ministry.

With regard to the scheme to sewer Capel le Ferne the Ministry had indicated that a starting date could be given for the spring of 1955, and final details of the scheme have now been submitted.

Scavenging.

The collection and removal of domestic refuse, the emptying of cesspools and collection of pails has been carried out by direct labour, and has worked very satisfactorily.

Salvage.

This is under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who reports on the year's work as follows:

Weights of material collected	51 tons 11 cwt.
Amount received for the material	£395.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(1) Number of inspections made during the year, 1,831.

(2) Number of notices served, Informal, 131; Statutory, Nil.

Drainage:	
(a) Reconstructed	20
Cesspools:	
(a) Repaired	2
(b) Emptied	1,662

Shops Act, 1950.

Regular inspections of shops were made, and any necessary instructions given in regard to ventilation, temperature, lighting and sanitary accommodation. No formal action was necessary.

Factories Act, 1937.

(i) Registered Factories:

With mechanical power	21
Without mechanical power	18
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	3
	42

(ii) Inspections:

Premises	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	43	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	49	-	-
Other premises	8	-	-
	100	-	-

(iii) Defects:

Particulars	Number of Defects Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.	Referred by Inspector	Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:- Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	2	-
	2	1	-	2	-

Verminous Premises.

Four complaints were received, and successful action taken to eradicate.

Destruction of Rats and Mice.

Gassing, trapping and poisoning are carried out by a full-time Rodent Operator. Regular surveys of the area have been made during the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

Number of infestations found:

Rats, Major	25
Rats, Minor	273
Mice, Major	1
Mice, Minor	22

Estimated Kill:

Rats	1,905
Mice	90

Number of bodies found:

Rats	692
Mice	80

Camping Sites.

There are seven sites registered in the district for the summer months only, viz Capel le Ferne six and Hougham one. These are kept under regular supervision.

S E C T I O N D

HOUSING

Houses were inspected upon complaint, and notices served in the case of urgent repairs being required.

Thirty five building licences were issued, and one hundred and forty inspections were made with regard to these. All building licensing ceased on the 9th November, 1954.

During the year the Council's postwar housing programme was proceeded with, and at the end of the year twelve dwellings were completed. There were thirty dwellings under construction at the end of the year.

The two hundred and ninety six houses built under the post war housing schemes are as follows:

Alkham 14; Capel le Ferne 14; Coldred 6; East Langdon 6; Guston 8; Hougham 16; Ringwould 38; St. Margaret's at Cliffe 54; Shepherdswell 50; Temple Ewell 60; Whitfield 22; River 4; Wootton 4.

Thirty eight private enterprise houses were completed during the year and thirty five were under construction. Four hundred and thirty seven visits were made in connection with these.

Six improvement grants were approved during the year, one for the conversion of a dwelling into two, and five for the improvement of existing dwellings.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	125
Number of inspections made for the purpose	193
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	13
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	9
Number of houses demolished	1
Number of closing orders made	1

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made regular visits to all registered premises.

(a) Number of Registered Distributors	6
(b) Number of Registered Dairies	1

The following licences were granted by the Dover Rural District Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations -

Dealer's Pasteurised	8
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested	7
Dealer's Sterilised	1
Dealer's Accredited	1
Supplementary T.T. and Pasteurised	1

Brucella Abortus.

Thirty one samples of milk were taken in connection with suspected Bovine Brucellosis.

Action taken under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Following the occurrence of human Brucellosis in an adjoining area and on confirmation that a raw milk supplied to the patients from a Tuberculin Tested Herd in the Rural District was subject to infection with Brucella Abortus, a notice under Article 20 of the Regulations was issued to the producer requiring Pasteurization of the whole supply before sale for human consumption.

The notice was complied with and was withdrawn some three months later when the herd appeared to be free from infection.

Meat and Other Foods.

In July, 1954 the national policy of meat slaughtering came to an end and this Council decided to support the Government's views on moderate concentration of slaughtering and agreed that the municipal slaughter-houses at Canterbury and Hythe would serve the needs of the district. One application for a licence to use premises as a slaughterhouse was received and rejected.

Regular inspections of all food shops, butchers premises, and bakehouses, etc., were made.

Foodstuffs Condemned during 1954.

Canned Goods - 85 tins.
102 lbs. beef.

Ice Cream.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1939, makes it compulsory for all premises used for the sale, or manufacture for sale, of ice cream to be registered with the Local Authority.

Number of premises registered 33

Three of these premises did not sell ice cream during the year.

Five samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination.

The results were classified as follows:

Grade 1 - 5

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) Notified during 1954 - By Age Groups (Corrected).

	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Malaria	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Para).	Ac. Poliomyelitis (N.P.).	Ac. Enc. (Inf).
Age Unknown	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1 - 2 years	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3 years	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5 years	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10 years	23	2	6	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 years	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20 years	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 - 35 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
45 - 65 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	54	7	6	5	1	1	1	1
Admitted to Hospital	-	-	1	3	1	1	1	1
Notification Rates per 1,000 Home Population	4.59	.59	.51	.42	.09	.09	.09	.09

2. Diphtheria Immunisation.

The scheme for the immunisation of the child population against diphtheria continued throughout the year under the administration of the Kent County Council and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information:-

Number of children resident in the Rural District of Dover, who during 1954, received:-

(a) Primary Inoculations 149
(b) Reinforcing Inoculations 108

Number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date:-

Under 5 years	From 5 - 15 years	Total
554	864	1,418

3. Vaccination.

By courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health the following information has been furnished in regard to the vaccinations against smallpox recorded in the Rural District of Dover during 1954:-

	Age at 31st December, 1954:				
	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 and over	Total
Number vaccinated	58	68	1	-	127
Number re-vaccinated	-	1	8	9	18

4. Tuberculosis - Annual Statement of Cases of Tuberculosis.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
(a) Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register as at 1st January, 1954.	54	47	17	14
(b) Number of Cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time during year.	3	1	-	3
(c) Restored to Register.	-	1	-	-
(d) Added to Register otherwise than by formal notification.	4	2	-	2
(e) Cases removed from Register during year including recoveries of deaths (excluding deaths of unnotified cases)	4	3	-	-
(f) Cases on Register at end of 1954.	57	48	17	19

During the year there was one death of an un-notified case of pulmonary tuberculosis relating to a resident within the district.

Analysis of new cases notified in 1954.

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 -	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	1
5 -	-	-	-	1
15 -	1	-	-	-
25 -	-	1	-	-
35 -	2	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	1
55 -	-	-	-	-
65 -	-	-	-	-
Total	3	1	-	3

ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN 1954 OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER:

Number of deaths - One.
Details: Male, aged 66 years, suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925:

No action was necessary in regard to any tuberculous person employed in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936: Section 172.

No action was necessary with regard to the compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to hospital during the year.

Disinfection.

The Rural District Council does not possess a disinfecting plant and, where necessary, infected bedding and clothing is disinfected by arrangement with the Hospital Authority.

During the year four batches of clothing were dealt with in this manner.

Number of premises disinfected - 11.